Reclaiming of Indian Treasures from British Museum

3861. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any record of Indian treasures in Britain;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that a Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries had reported that the Indian collections were neglected;

(c) whether it is a fact that Guru Govind Singh's Kalgi and Shivaji's Sword are among the objects salted away in British Museum; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take for reclaiming the Indian treasures from Britain?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Step Wells in Gujarat

3862. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the crumbling condition of the centuries old step wells in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what steps Archaeological Survey of India propose to take to save them from obscurity?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Nine stepwells under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India are in a fairly good state of preservation and necessary repairs are taken up as and when required.

Creation of National Culture Fund

3863. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any national culture fund has been created: